

Appealing to the Backslider

By REV. JAMES M. GRAY, D.D.
Dean of Moody Bible Institute,
Chicago

TEXT—Oh Israel, return unto the Lord thy God, for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. Take with you words and turn to the Lord; say unto him, take away our iniquity and receive us graciously; so will we render unto thee the calves of our lips.

I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away.—Hosea 14:1-4.

1.—Backsliding in a religious sense is falling away from one's profession, even though it is not always visible to the eyes of men. A Christian need not blaspheme, nor commit murder, nor theft, nor adultery, to be a backslider. He need only exalt his own reason above the Word of God, or neglect the house of God, or begin to fellowship with the people who do not know God, to make him a back-

slider. Backsliding imperils the salvation of the soul, for although the Bible teaches the perseverance of the saints it also teaches the perseverance of the sinners. While Christ teaches that the sheep whom the Father hath given him shall never be plucked out of his hand, yet the evidence that we are his sheep is that we hear his voice and follow him.

The backslider not only imperils the salvation of his soul, but also makes havoc of his peace from day to day, for gloomy thoughts and self-reproach and an uneasy conscience possess him. This must be so because even if he does not doubt his salvation at the last, he must know that the building he is erecting on his foundation is one of wood, hay and stubble, that cannot stand the test of the fire which is to try every Christian's work of what sort it is in the day of reckoning that is coming.

The backslider is a serious menace to other Christians and a great obstacle in the way of those that are unsaved. Lord Byron is on record as dating his earliest feelings against Christianity from having witnessed how little some of its votaries were actuated by the spirit of love they professed; and David Brainerd, the great missionary to the American Indians, tells how the savages in Delaware refused to listen to him because of the bad treatment they had received from some who called themselves Christians.

It is not the penitent backslider there is encouragement and hope. His is not an unpardonable offense, since God is ever calling upon his people to return to him on the ground of the reconciliation which Christ made for them on the cross. In the text he is doing that in Israel's case, reminding them that they had not been thrust away by him, but that they had fallen by their own iniquity. It was their own fault, and yet he tells them how they might come back, "Take with you words," he says, "and turn to the Lord." He even puts the words in their mouths telling them just what to say. They are to say, "Take away iniquity and receive us graciously." And they are to promise him that they will render him the praise and gratitude of their hearts, for that really is what is meant by "the calves of our lips."

It is not the works of our self-righteousness that God desires in order to bring about our restoration, but rather broken and contrite hearts. Our works will follow our words if the latter are sincere and true. In other words, God commences where man would end. Man would want to recall his former life before he would return to God. But God would have him return first and then he will find that his former life has already been recalled.

Oh, is there someone in whose heart this touches a responsive chord? Some Christian whose life has been crusted over with the cares and pleasures of this world, but with whom God's Spirit is now pleading? Let him venture wholly on the love of God in Christ who will not "quench the smoking flax nor break the bruised." We say unto him in the language of the prophet, "Come, return unto the Lord for he hath torn and he will heal you; he hath smitten and he will bind you up."

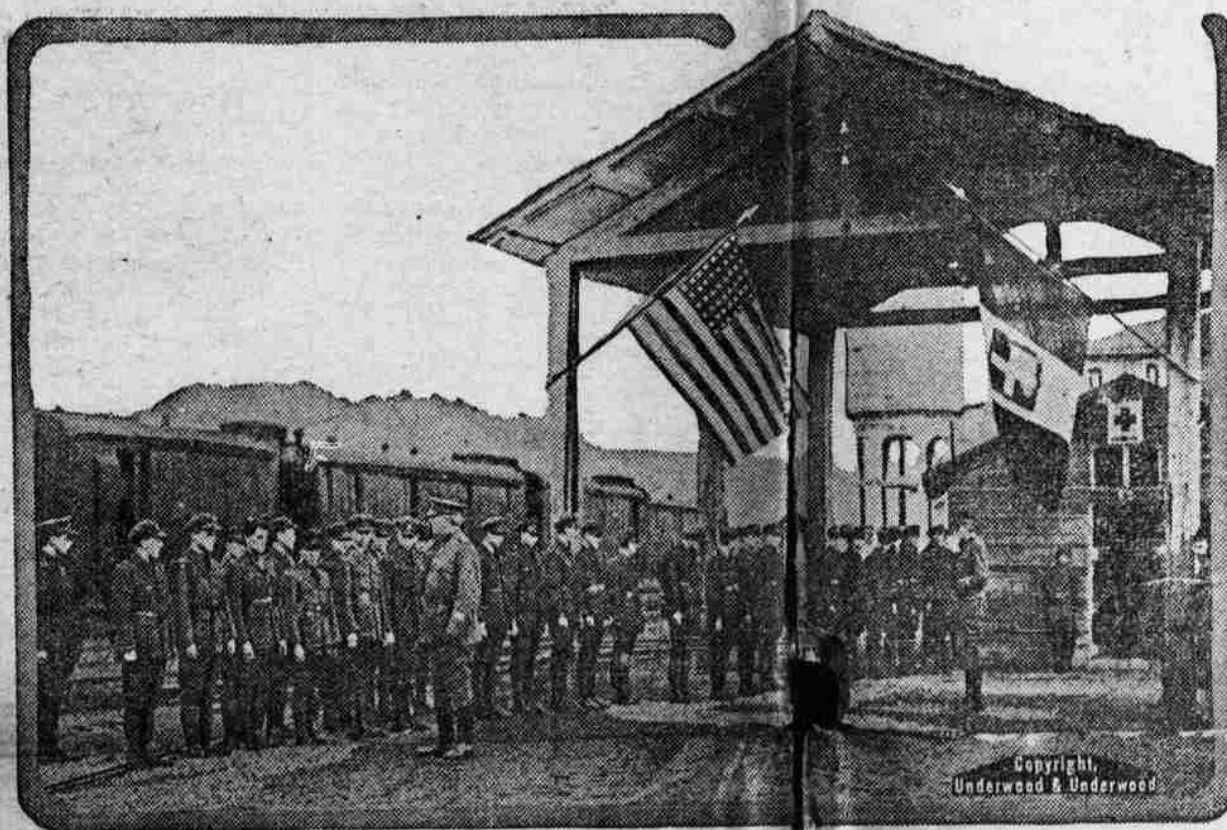
III.—But let not this exhortation be concluded without a loving word of warning to those who are not backslidden, but who may be. You have stood by the sea and watched the waves break upon the shore. For a while they all seemed to touch the same point. At first it was impossible to say whether the tide was going out or coming in. You had to watch closely for a while to determine. By and by the ebbing waters told the tale.

It is so with backsliding and backsliders. The process of declension is very gradual. No Christian ever substituted vice for virtue by a sudden resolution of mind. The slipping away began underneath, while the surface appearance remained unchanged. Prayer became formal, the eye of faith grew dim, self-indulgence gained ground, and at last men could no longer take knowledge of him that he had been with Jesus! Oh, watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation.



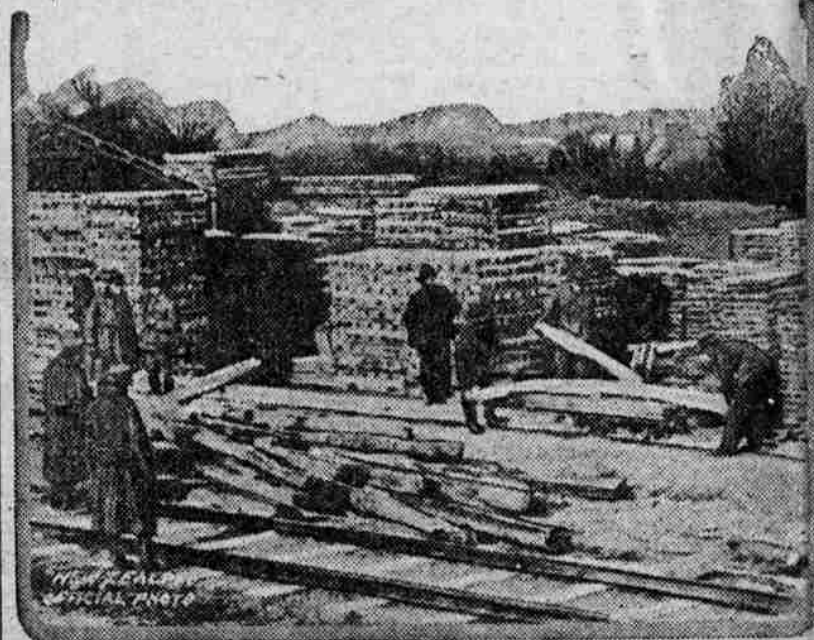
1—Italian heavy naval gun mounted on a concrete barge in the Plave to help keep back the Austro-Germans. 2—New portable laundry being tested at Camp Mende for the government; it can take care of the laundry of 4,000 men a week. 3—Lieut. Mills Kitchen, son of Congressman Kitchen, special instructor in bayonet practice at one of the National army camps.

AMERICAN RED CROSS STATION IN MILAN



The formal opening at Milan, Italy, of a first aid station by the American Red Cross was marked by most impressive ceremonies. Besides the Red Cross workers, the municipal authorities of Milan attended in a body. This photograph shows the men and officers lined up outside the Red Cross pavilion awaiting the arrival of the Italian authorities. The flags of the United States and Italy are flying over the first aid station.

TIMBER SALVED FROM HUN DUGOUTS



Salvage is playing a great part in the present war. This photograph shows timber salvaged from German dugouts that has been cut up in the sawmills of the New Zealand Tunneling company to be used in the construction of dugouts for the troops.

GOVERNOR BEATS MAYOR IN PLOWING



Atlanta, Ga., recently had a war-garden parade in which Governor Dorsey plowed the best furrow in the shortest time. The photograph shows Governor Dorsey (on extreme right) and Mayor Asa G. Candler of Atlanta (next to Governor Dorsey), the rivals. The president of the Atlantic Advertising Men's club, H. G. Hastings, is presenting the winner with a bouquet made of Georgia-grown vegetables.

Temperance Notes

(Conducted by the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union.)

THE EAGLE SCREAMS.

It is enough to make the eagle on the American dollar scream with agony and despair at the number of times it is thrown across the bar in payment for Kaiserism's liquid fire, booze, when it could, if thrown into the treasury of the United States, soar over the trenches of the German army and scream defiance and final victory for the world and for democracy.

If the \$2,438,037,985.50 spent for liquor in the United States last year were used for the support of her army for one year this is what it would accomplish: It would insure the salaries of our fighting men (\$715,828,440); would pay for necessary transportation in mobilizing our troops and equipment (\$450,490,305); would clothe (\$375,506,097) and provide subsistence (\$329,072,218) for the army; would allow the medical corps to keep up its work and erect hospitals (\$100,026,000); would cover the ordnance stores ammunition (\$39,520,000) and ordnance stores supplies (\$70,000,000); would erect barracks and quarters for the troops (\$82,118,000); maintain the civilian training camps (\$2,110,000); the very important engineer department could operate with sufficient funds (\$104,800,000); would maintain the quartermaster's departments (\$163,917,925), and the signal corps (\$3,400,000); and besides all this would leave a balance of \$1,540,000.50. —Malcolm C. Patterson, formerly Governor of Tennessee.

ONE OF THE "SURES."

Wyoming is one of the seven states which will vote upon the question of state-wide prohibition next November. The Republican party of that state has through its central committee declared itself emphatically for the measure. The resolution indorsing prohibition concludes with these words:

"We, the representatives of the Republican party of the state of Wyoming, in committee assembled, do here and now pledge every person receiving a nomination for any public office within the state of Wyoming at our hands, from United States senator down to ward constable, to the policy of absolute prohibition and the enforcement of every law enacted for the purpose of bringing about the complete prohibition of the manufacture, barter and sale of alcoholic liquors for beverage purposes."

Entirely surrounded by dry states, on cannot logically remain wet. Ninety-nine per cent of the state is already dry under state and municipal statute. Women have voted there since 1869. That state-wide prohibition will win next fall is a foregone conclusion.

QUESTIONS FOR LABOR TO ANSWER.

In an appeal to the labor unions of the country to refuse to longer be the catspaw of the liquor industry when labor circles are in reality largely dry, Charles Stelez says: "Shall the trades unions be made the scapegoat for an evil which it is sought to continue, against the best judgment of increasing numbers of workingmen? Shall future generations hold it against organized labor that, in the twentieth century, it allied itself with those who stood for sin and the debauchery of the saloon? Shall the saloon dominate the labor movement when every other decent organization and institution is breaking loose from its power? These are questions which labor must answer, and answer so emphatically that no one can mistake the real attitude of the trades unions."

EXPLODED ARGUMENTS!

"States which have already adapted themselves to prohibition can smile at the arguments advanced by its opponents in New York, for they have already been exploded," says the Portland Oregonian, a paper formerly opposed to prohibition. "The lost revenue is already made up by other forms of taxation without hardship or complaint, especially as the effect of prohibition is already becoming apparent in a diminution of crime and insanity and consequently of public burdens. Breweries are applied to other uses than making beer and other retail business has occupied vacant saloons. Former employees of breweries and saloons have found other occupations, for there are practically no unemployed in Oregon who wish to work. States and cities have learned that they can get along without liquor revenue, capital has learned that it can find profitable use for property which was formerly applied to production of revenue, and workingmen have found other jobs. The liquor traffic has disappeared and we have quickly closed the gaps which it left."

PLENTY OF HISTORY.

Sidney Lanier said, "It is idle to argue from prophecy when we can argue from history." It is no longer a question whether prohibition is a benefit. Twenty-seven states, Alaska, District of Columbia and Porto Rico, not to mention nearly all of Canada, furnish the history.

"The argument that the stopping of the liquor traffic will create a commercial famine is based upon the absurdity that the money spent for booze could not be spent for anything else."

Keep Yourself Fit

You can't afford to be laid up with sore, aching kidneys in these days of high prices. Some occupations bring kidney troubles; almost any work makes weak kidneys worse. If you feel tired all the time, and suffer with lame back, sharp pains, dizzy spells, headaches and disordered kidney action, use Doan's Kidney Pills. It may save an attack of rheumatism, dropsy, or Bright's disease. Doan's have helped thousands back to health.

An Ohio Case

Wm. R. Smith, 810 Moxahala Ave., Zanesville, Ohio, says: "I wrenched my back and the pain got so bad I couldn't sit on the wagon. My back ached so acutely, I could hardly bend over. My kidneys acted too often and blinding dizzy spells came on. My feet swelled so badly I couldn't wear my shoes. After everything else had failed, Doan's Kidney Pills removed all the ailments and I am able to do my work with ease now."

Get Doan's at Any Store, 60c a Box
DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS
FOSTER-MILBURN CO., BUFFALO, N. Y.

TOOK LAURELS AS SPRINTER

According to His Own Account, This Man's Record Makes All Runners Take Back Seat.

Speaking at a dinner, Senator Thomas J. Walsh of Montana remarked that bravery is often more beautiful in theory than practice, and told the following story as an illustration:

One evening a party named Smith rushed into a cigar store in his home town, and, in response to a question as to what made him look so wild-eyed and excited, he said he had been held up by footpads.

"I was coming through that deep, dark woods down by Johnson's farm," he continued, "when I saw the dusky forms of two men stealthily crawling through the underbrush toward me. One of them had a pistol in his hand and the other—"

"Gee whiz, man!" interrupted one of the cigar-store crowd. "What did you do?"

"What did I do?" responded Smith with some emphasis. "Why, I did three miles in just about four minutes." —Philadelphia Evening Telegraph.

FRECKLES

Now Is the Time to Get Rid of These Ugly Spots

There's no longer the slightest need of feeling ashamed of your freckles, as the prescription ointment—double strength—is guaranteed to remove these homely spots. Simply get an ounce of ointment—double strength—from your druggist, and apply a little of it night and morning, and you should have vanished entirely. It is seldom that more than one ounce is needed to completely clear the skin and gain a beautiful complexion. Be sure to ask for the double strength ointment, as this is sold under guarantee of money back if it fails to remove freckles.—Adv.

Chance for Promotion.

A first lieutenant in the depot troops has many negroes in his company. They have an idea that a sergeant is a high officer.

One negro said to the lieutenant one day: "Sergeant, you sho is good."

The officer responded, "I am not a sergeant."

"I know, boss, but some day you will be."

BOSCHEE'S GERMAN SYRUP

Why use ordinary cough remedies, when Boschee's German Syrup has been used so successfully for fifty-one years in all parts of the United States for coughs, bronchitis, colds settled in the throat, especially lung troubles. It gives the patient a good night's rest, free from coughing, with easy expectation in the morning, gives nature a chance to soothe the inflamed parts, throw off the disease, helping the patient to regain his health. Made in America and sold for more than half a century.—Adv.

College Men Off to War.

Only six of the 73 Harvard students who won their "H" last year are still in the university. The rest are "in the war." More than fifty Yale professors and instructors are engaged in war service.

Pimply Rash Skins

Quickly soothed and healed by Cuticura often when all else fails. The Soap to cleanse and purify, the Ointment to soothe and heal. For free samples address, "Cuticura, Dept. X, Boston." At druggists and by mail. Soap 25, Ointment 25 and 50.—Adv.

When a man is in the right he can afford to wait his turn.

MOTHERS
Keep the family free from colds by using
VICK'S VAPORUB

Cuticura Soap
Is Ideal
For the Hands

FOR COUGHS AND COLDS

—take a prompt and effective remedy—one that acts quickly and contains no opiates. You can get such a remedy by asking for

PISO'S